

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2004

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on February 23, 2004 in Room 830 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Jernigan called a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 10:07 a.m., followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Jernigan
Vice President Mariajimenez
Commissioner Davalos
Commissioner Gravely
Commissioner Mummey
Commissioner Rodriguez

WELCOME THE NEW FIFTH DISTRICT COMMISSIONER – WADIE M. GRAVELY

President Jernigan welcomed new Fifth District Commissioner Gravely, appointed by Supervisor Antonovich.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Commissioner Cooperman joined the meeting).

President Jernigan reported the following:

- At the New Frontiers Democratic Club Luncheon on February 15, 2004, Representative Diane Watson spoke on the condition of soldiers who served in the Middle East.
- She met with Deputy District Attorney Laura Jones, a candidate for Judge.
- Haven Hills sent her a thank you letter for the Commission's \$500 domestic violence grant.
- She reported on a February 17, 2004 article in the *Los Angeles Times* on juvenile probation camps.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of Treasurer Lesser, staff reported on the expenditures for the month of January 2004. The beginning balance for January was \$30,511.79; the expenditures were \$689.07; the income was \$201.22; and the ending balance was \$30,023.94. The February 2004 budget is \$6,004.79.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- The ACCW Quarterly Meeting has been rescheduled from February 25th to March 3, 2004 in Sacramento.
- The County's African American Heritage Celebration will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 381B, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.
- On February 17, 2004 the Board of Supervisors amended the Rules of the Board to permanently reschedule the regular Tuesday Board meetings to Wednesdays when they fall on Statewide primary or General Election days in even-numbered years.
- Sybil Brand, extraordinary advocate to improve jail conditions for women and children in Los Angeles County, passed away Tuesday, February 17, 2004.

(Commissioner Perkins joined the meeting during the Staff Report, constituting a quorum).

PRESENTATION BY SANTA CLARITA VALLEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER (SCDVC)

Kathy Urias, Staff Manager, provided an overview of the programs and services of the SCDVC, established in 1983. She briefly described their 30-day emergency shelter, monolingual and bilingual counseling programs, the court-referral program and support groups for battered women. She further described a "neighbor program" in which women from the community provide information and support to domestic violence victims at their homes. She went on to discuss the causes of continued domestic violence, emphasizing women often return to their abusers for economic reasons. The State, County and private donations fund the SCDVC, but recent cutbacks have led to staff reductions, forcing her and other staff to volunteer in order to continue vital services.

President Jernigan thanked Ms. Urias for her enlightening presentation.

(Commissioner Creary joined the meeting during the presentation).

CONSIDER APPROVING A \$500 DONATION WITH A \$500 DONATION FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FUND TO THE SCDVC

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Creary, seconded by Commissioner Cooperman, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved a \$500 donation to the SCDVC.

President Jernigan also donated \$500 to the SCDVC from the President's Fund.

On behalf of Supervisor Antonovich, Raine Ritchey, Fifth District Deputy, thanked the Commission and President Jernigan for their donation to the SCDVC.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Perkins, and duly carried, with Vice President Mariajimenez and Commissioner Gravely abstaining, the minutes of February 9, 2004 were approved with the following correction indicated in ***bold italics***:

Commissioner Creary reported on newspaper articles concerning conditions at the Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center and on a letter ~~she wrote~~ ***Commission staff sent*** to Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, Director of Health Services, requesting updates on the situation.

PRESENTATION ON THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S 2004-05 BUDGET

Maxine Schmidl, Legislative Analyst, Chief Administrative Office, provided an overview of the 2004-05 Budget presented by Governor Schwarzenegger on January 9, 2004. She highlighted the following facts concerning the proposed budget:

- The estimated loss in funding to Los Angeles County would be \$415 million.
- The Governor proposes transferring local property tax revenue from local government to the State.
- Local public safety would incur 63% of the cutbacks.
- Over 3,300 county positions would have to be reduced, including 2,000 public safety positions.
- The proposed reduction in TANF funding could cause the closure of juvenile probation camps.
- Continued deferral of mandated reimbursement by the state to local governments would exceed \$195 million.
- The suspension of Proposition 42 transportation funds would cause Public Works to delay making improvements on 23 miles of deteriorated roads.
- The County would have to incur an \$11 million federal child support penalty because the State doesn't have an automated child support collection system.
- Proposition 57 would consolidate state debt by creating a maximum bond measure of \$15 billion.
- The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) Report, which provides an independent and non-partisan assessment of the Governor's budget, is critical of the proposal to shift property tax revenue.
- The next step is for the state legislature to weigh in on the May Revised Budget.

The Commission then discussed various budget issues, including getting the public engaged in looking at budget issues. President Jernigan thanked Ms. Schmidl for her informative presentation.

AWARDS LUNCHEON PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

President Jernigan announced that Commissioner Davalos has agreed to serve as the Interim Awards Luncheon Committee Chair. Commissioner Davalos then reported the following:

- The CHARO Community Development Corporation is a new sponsor.
- The Boeing Company is the Title Sponsor, Kaiser Permanente, Frank and Carol Biondi, and the UAW Region 5 Retired Workers are Diamond Sponsors, and the Hilton Corporation is a Gold Sponsor.
- 30 Luncheon tickets have been donated to the Commission's scholarship recipients.
- Total sales from sponsorships and ticket sales exceed \$21,500.
- Actress and playwright Diana Rodriguez will be the Mistress of Ceremonies.
- The Souvenir Journal will be printed this week.
- The photographer, musicians and the Color Guard have been arranged.

APPROVAL OF TWO TICKETS FOR PROTOTYPES EVENT

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Davalos, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of two tickets at \$75 each for Commissioners to attend the Prototype's 10th Annual Black History Month Gala on February 28, 2004. Commissioners Davalos and Perkins expressed interest in attending.

APPROVE EXPENSES FOR COMMISSIONER TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Cooperman, and duly carried, with Commissioners Perkins and Mummey opposing and Commissioner Gravely abstaining, the Commission approved expenses of up to \$600 for one Commissioner to attend the 4th International Conference on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in San Diego on April 7-9, 2004.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF FOUR TICKETS TO CEDARS-SINAI HEALTH CONFERENCE

On motion of Commissioner Mummey, seconded by Commissioner Creary, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of four tickets of \$35 each for Commissioners to attend the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's 3rd Annual Women's Health Conference on March 5, 2004.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee

Commissioner Creary reported on the situation at the King/Drew Medical Center and discussed a newspaper article on the impact of a prescription drug bill.

Legislative Committee

Vice President Mariajimenez will coordinate with staff to arrange a presentation on the Healthy Children Program.

Media/Public Relations Committee: There was no report.

Education Subcommittee

Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported on plans for a follow-up activity this summer for the 2003 scholarship recipients. President Jernigan requested her to bring back the proposed date and program for the Commission's approval.

Older Women's Issues Committee

Commissioner Mummey reported on a pamphlet on hiring in-home help and on plans for an older women's forum this summer. She also recommended watching the televised Board of Supervisors meetings Wednesday nights at 10:00 p.m. on KLCS.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Perkins announced the following:

- She and Commissioner Creary attended the Los Angeles Women's Appointment Collaboration reception at Mirabella's in West Hollywood on February 10, 2004.
- The United States Congress will present the Congressional Gold Medal to civil rights activist Dorothy Height on March 24, 2004 in Washington, D.C.
- The Commission's set item presentations are highly regarded among legislators and policy makers as a viable forum to discuss health and women's issues.

Commissioner Becerra-Jones suggested arranging a presentation by Professor Rosenfield on the correlation between high crime rates and unemployment.

Vice President Mariajimenez announced that this Saturday, February 28, 2004 La Comisión Femenil will host the Adelante Mujer outreach to encourage young women to pursue educational and career goals.

Commissioner Cooperman attended the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2004.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA: There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Ruth Jernigan, President
Yvonne Maria Jimenez, Vice President
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Roslyn Cooperman
Ruth Creary, Ph.D.
Karin Davalos
Wadie Gravely
Janet Mummey
Barbara Perkins
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer
Reiko Duba
Bonnie J. Lewis
Lila Morgan

UNEXCUSED

Sophia Esparza

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Maxine Schmidl, Chief Administrative Office
Raine Ritchey, Fifth District
Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office
Gene Romig, Executive Office
Twila Kerr, Executive Office
Steve Erickson, Executive Office
Charles Hill, Executive Office
Angel Triola, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance

GUEST

Kathy Urias